



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Vernal Field Office  
170 South 500 East  
Vernal, Utah 84078  
<http://www.blm.gov/Vernal>



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
3800  
UT08300  
66354 et al

*Please file*  
*50470050*

May 20, 2004

### Memorandum

To: Paul Baker, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
From: Pete Sokolosky, Vernal Field Office-BLM  
Subject: Solid Minerals Related Matters – Northeastern Utah

I wanted to convey some information regarding some solid minerals related actions that may be of mutual interest. Attached are copies of some past inspections (as our current practice is to cc UDOGM a copy of such).

I reviewed the 3/25/04 list of UDOGM permits within Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah Counties. I have the following observations regarding a few of the entries.

S470051 (Stevens Rainbow #1 Claim) – Mr. Stevens did not apply to extend his notice (UTU66366, which had been inactive for many years prior), so it is expired. I'm not sure if he has filled the excavation in sandstone and nearby miscellaneous materials (located in the NWNW of Sec. 29, T3S, R21E, as per our office's 6/03 decision letter). The last address we have for Mr. Stevens is 5505 North 2500 West, Vernal, UT 84078; no phone).

S470048 (LaStella's Sno-Ben #2 operation) – Mr. Norman Haslem became the operator of record [from Mr. LaStella] to this notice project area (UTU66354) in Oct. 1995. Recontouring and seeding of the area took place in Sept. 2001. Our office has yet to close the notice pending successful revegetation. Persons have cross country traveled over the area at times (a north-south road once went through this old placer mine site).

I did not see the Hiko Bell (S470050) on the list – our office is tracking this permit as 2 separate [expired, unreclaimed] notices (Bluebell UTU66357 and Hiko Bell UTU66358). The cumulative unreclaimed acreage is greater than 5 acres. We would appreciate UDOGM pushing the operator to reclaim or to post a bond.

All but one [43 CFR 3809] of the surface management notices on file with this office expired (cc's of the decisions declaring them expired were attached to a June 2003 letter to Wayne Hedberg). The one [provisionally] extended notice (pending posting of a financial guarantee) is Alan Chew's quarry (serial number UTU66378; UDOGM permit S470061). He is not allowed to quarry stone until the financial guarantee is posted (Mr. Chew and I are to discuss the situation



next week). We are tracking one surface management plan of operation (Simplot's planned tailings pond expansion – UTU76097; part of UDOGM permit M470007). The water level of the pond has yet to reach the north line of the public lands involved in the notice (a change of operator from SF Phosphates to Simplot was filed with this office; however, the change will only become effective when a replacement bond has been furnished to UDOGM – Please let me know when a replacement bond has been furnished to UDOGM).

W AUB  
EIS

The Rawhide mine plan was circulated. It does not appear that the mine would directly affect public lands. However, when the Bureau writes an environmental assessment for a proposed Federal action in the vicinity, we have to analyze for cumulative impacts; i.e., affects of all other projects (including non-federal actions) in the area on various elements of the environment; including air quality, wildlife – including fisheries, surface and ground water quality, etc.). Our office would be interested in knowing 1) more about what emissions (into the air\*) that are likely from the proposed mine and processing facility (we would like to obtain copies any air quality filings; e.g., permits, monitoring reports, etc. if operations occur); 2) the acre-feet of water\*\* that would be used annually and what the source(s) of the water would be; 3) location, depth and quality of ground water encountered; 4) the quantity and quality of surface releases of water; and 5) plant species that have been used to successfully stabilize and revegetate disturbed areas.

\* the air quality portion of BLM environmental documents is coming under more scrutiny, so we need to build a baseline of data about emissions from various sources.

\*\* the Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned about the diversion of water from entering the Green River drainage (because of ongoing endangered fish recovery programs).

The only other solid mineral resource I have a concern about is stone. I'm unsure how often SITLA or UDOGM visits the State permit areas (to be sure their extraction is from within the bounds of the permit). Our office has conducted an onsite with one permittee (to show him the location of survey monuments following the discovery of unauthorized removal of stone from nearby public lands). During an inspection of public lands (in T.11S., R.15E. Sec. 15 S2SW and 22 N2) I detected vehicle tracks that appeared to have come Sec. 21 (which is under State lease to Western States Stone). I have written to Western States Stone to advise them that I would be willing to conduct a joint on-site to review the boundaries (to show them survey monuments) and also to report incidents of any suspicious stone removal in the area (as I have observed the results of unauthorized removal of stone in Sec. 17, T.11S., R.15E.; and there had been past reports of BLM purchasers being outside of a common use area in Section 15). Our office conducts on-sites as part of stone sale applications and also requires purchaser to have copies of their contract sales form (3600-9 or 5250-5) with them while extracting and transporting stone. It would be good if SITLA [or UDOGM as part of mine permitting] were to require their permittees to do the same (and to conduct a pre-extraction joint on-site to review the boundary of the permit area). Due to the extensive interest in stone from the upper Green River Formation (across southern Duchesne County through central Uintah County), there may be unauthorized removal transpiring on [State, Public, private and even Tribal] lands in the area.

Thanks for keeping our office apprised of new exploration permits and, small and large mine permits in Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties. I will continue to share with you new notice and plan filings (pursuant to the 43 CFR 3809 regulations). You or Doug probably get updates about activities on gilsonite and phosphate leases and prospecting permits from Stan Perkes or Jim Kohler of the Utah State Office (since that office is the Authorizing office for such actions;



our office typically writes the environmental documents; we have noticed an marked increase in the number of exploration and mine plan submissions from Federal gilsonite lessees). If you need to know about stone removal and sand and gravel sales and permits, the best source of that information is at [www.blm.gov/lr2000](http://www.blm.gov/lr2000) (since operations involving aggregates and removal of stone from the surface typically do not require a UDOGM permit).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Kelly", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

attachment – copies of past inspections

### 3809 REPORT OF INSPECTION

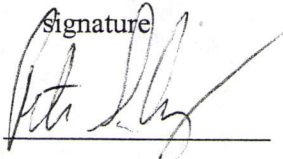
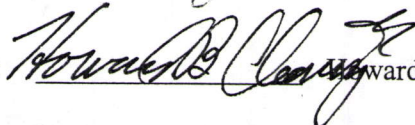
Date: September 29, 2003 Time: ~10:00 am Location: T.5S. R.25E. Sec 8 S2S2SENE, N2NESE and Sec. 9 S2SENW, N2NWSW and S2SESWNW (SLB&M)

Operator present during inspection: Yes (Alan Chew was on location)

Serial no. of notice: UTU 66378 (Alan Chew project area) Is the operation active? No

Description of operations (including access, reclamation, etc.): The project area remains accessible via an existing unimproved road from the east. The project area had been subjected to the continued quarrying of a presumed uncommon variety of stone from sandstones of the Gartra Grit member of the Chinle Formation (extraction had been from excavations on the east and west sides of a drainage and in the eastern part of the intermittent drainage). The area remains in substantially the same condition as what was observed during the September 16, 2002 inspection (see digitals and figures with that inspection report), though some stone from the west and drainage area quarry sites has probably taken place from 9/16/02 to the end of the 2002 gathering season).. Mr. Chew indicates there has been no extraction of stone since the extension of the notice was filed (in January 2003). The access road showed some rills (erosion from rains of a number of weeks ago; Mr. Chew indicates he plans to maintain such before the area becomes inaccessible in 2003).

Is the operation in compliance with the notice on file and/or the stipulations of the approved plan? (if No describe deficiencies): Yes. Since the last inspection the operator has filed for an extension of the notice, however, he has yet to file a financial guarantee (though no operations have taken place). I have suggested that if he wishes to incrementally bond (versus bonding for the entire 5 acre project area, as I has calculated in a June 25, 2003 letter), there needs to be something to the surface management file which delineates the plans for concurrent reclamation. He still plans to enlist the services of a local private contractor to work on an estimate for the conduct of reclamation.

	signature	name/title	date
Inspector		Peter Sokolosky/Geologist	<u>Sept 30 2003</u>
Management		Howard Cleavinger/AFFMMR	<u>9/30/03</u>

Attachment: Digital images

Distribution: original to surface management case file UTU66354  
Copy - Wayne Hedberg (UDOGM) - state file no. S/047/061





Image 2: view to north-northwest (from northeastern part of project area) of pre-existing road (note small rill at right) to quarry on east side of drainage (at upper left, stacked pallets sit in the area); there appears to have been no operations in this quarry area.



image 2: view to north-northwest (from near the south-central part of the project area) of the access road to the quarry area in the eastern side of the drainage); there appears to have been no operations in this area; some rills are forming in the roadway (due to rain a few weeks ago); image 5 below also shows another view of this quarry area.



image 3: view to northeast (from southeastern part of project area); staging area and part of access to quarry on west side of drainage (rocks in background) is in foreground (note some rills in lower right).





image 4: view to east of quarry area on west side of drainage; there was no evidence of operations in the area since the past inspection; quarry on east side of drainage (in far part of image 1) is in partial view (upper-center)

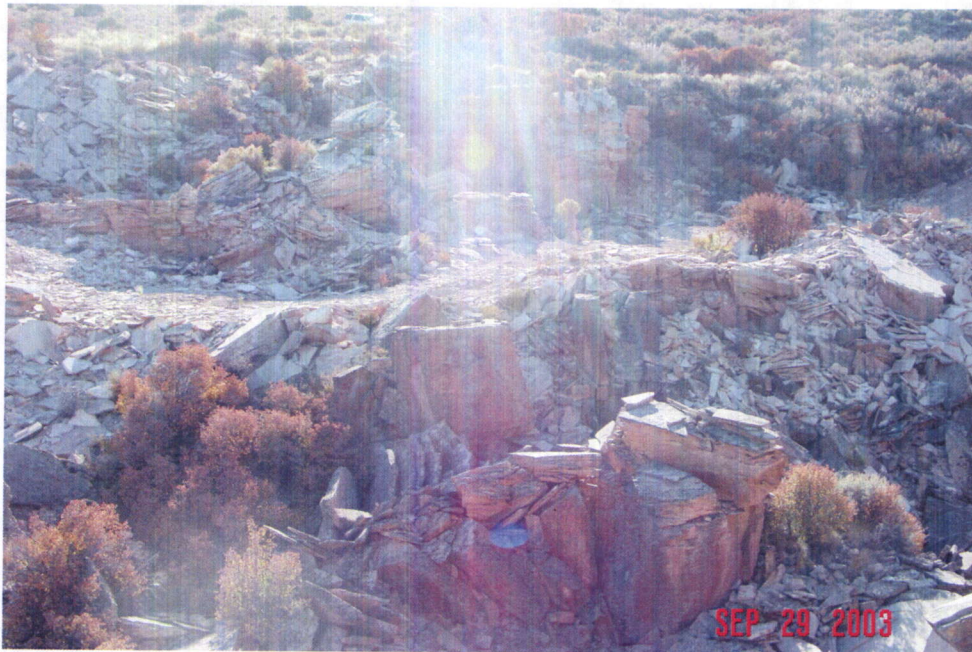


image 5: view to southeast (from quarry area in image 4), of quarry area in the eastern side of the drainage; main access road is across the top of the image; image 2 was taken from just off the upper right of this image.



# 3809 REPORT OF INSPECTION

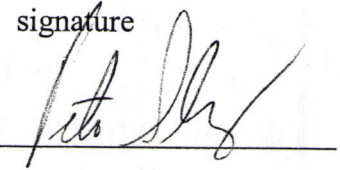

Date: October 9, 2003 Time: about 9:00 am Location: T.3S., R.22E. Sec. 6 (S2N2)

Operator(s) present during inspection: Yes. Seth McCourt (SF Phosphates Mining Engineer)

Serial no. of notice: UTU76097 (SF Phosphates plan area) Is the operation active? No

Description of operations (including access, reclamation, etc.): The tailings pond has not risen to a level where it would inundate the public land south of SF's private surface (where SF has located mill sites). It appears that the pond may be near the north line of mill site SF-13, so that mill site was inspected. The northeast and northwest corners of that mill site were located and it appeared the tailings pond water line was about 150 feet to the north of that mill site (probably around 5900' elevation; I was unable to GPS the mill site corners or tailing pond shore line due to nearby cliffs).

Is the operation in compliance with the notice on file and/or the stipulations of the approved plan? (if No describe deficiencies): Yes. A bond rider is currently attached to the UDOGM accepted bond for SF's Venal Phosphate Operation (M/047/007) for the estimate to revegetate the tailings which would eventually cover some 24 acres of public lands (by about 2040).

	signature	name/title	date
Inspector		Peter Sokolosky/Geologist	<u>OCT 9 2003</u>
Management		Howard Cleavinger/AFFMMR	<u>10/11/2003</u>

Attachment: digital images

Distribution: original to surface management case file UTU76097  
Copy - UDOGM - state file no. M/047/007





image 1: view to northwest from near northeast corner of mill site SF-13; tailings pond and south shore (middle to lower part of image); SF's beneficiation plant at right and borrow area for building next lift on tailing dam at upper-center. Reddish ground is Moenkopi Formation and light color area on far shore is top of the Park City Formation.

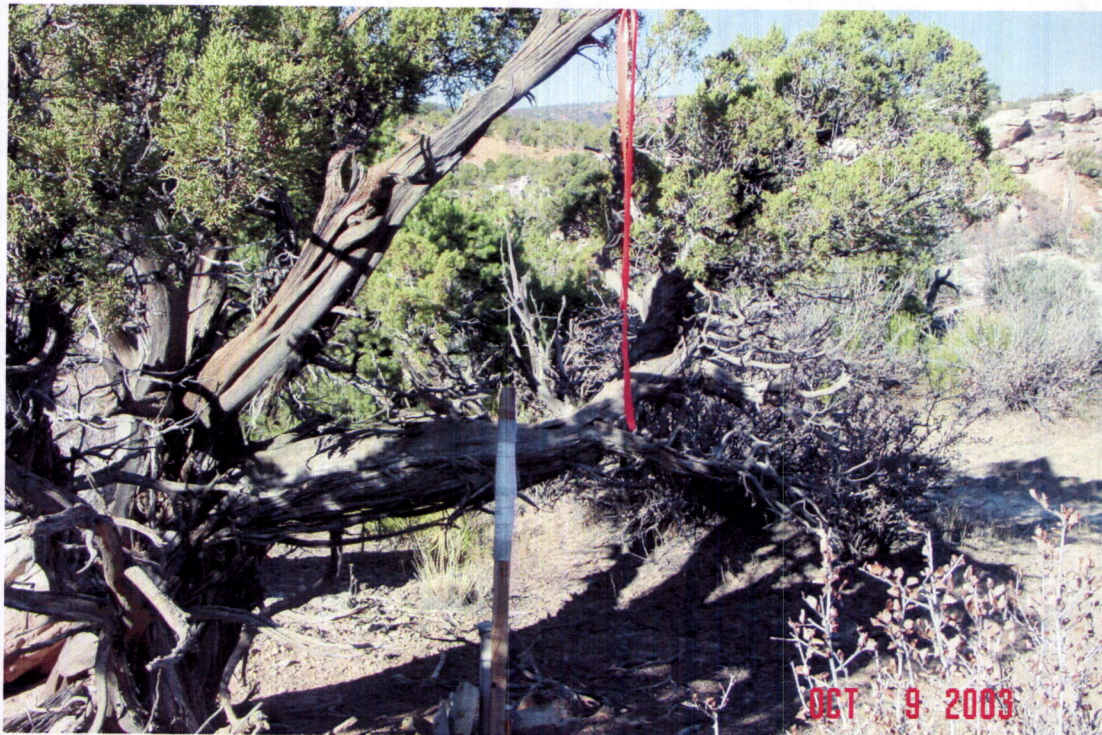


image 2: view to west of northeast corner of SF-13 mill site (next to wooden stake); about midway between the northeast and northwest corners of this mill site is a deep valley (seen in image 3 below).





image 3: view to north  
(from about 100' south of  
the mid-point of the north  
line of mill site SF-13);  
pond waterline is about  
150' north of the mill  
site.



### 3809 REPORT OF INSPECTION

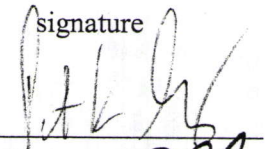
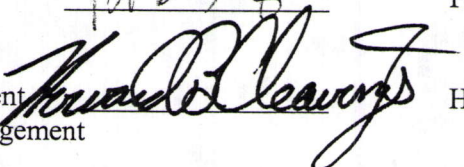
Date: April 24, 2003 Time: about 12:20 pm Location: T.4S. R.21E. Sec 31 SE

Operator present during inspection: No (I drove by the MCN plant and notified Sam Skinner that I would be conducting an inspection of the revegetation effort and that I would be crossing MCN's private land to the north in order to access the public lands in Section 31). I was accompanied by Stan Olmstead (Environmental Scientist with the Vernal Field Office) who offered to render an opinion regarding the revegetation effort.

Serial no. of notice: UTU 66370 (MCN Energy's project area) Is the operation active? No

Description of operations (including access, reclamation, etc): The project area had been reshaped and seeded in September 2002 as directed in our office's June 24, 2002 decision letter (see September 18, 2002 inspection report). There is evidence of the emergence of desirable vegetation (both from what was seeded in September 2002 as well as volunteer vegetation that survived the reshaping; see digitals attached). There was evidence of vehicular [ATV] travel on the former access that was reshaped and seeded (traffic had come onto the public lands some 100 ft or so north of a "reclaimed area, no vehicular traffic" sign our office posted where the access road enters private land to the east of section 31; some dead loose vegetation was placed in the path of travel; however, another sign will be posted).

Is the operation in compliance with the notice on file and/or the stipulations of the approved plan? (if No describe deficiencies): Yes. The only operation that has transpired is reclamation (the area remains closed to mineral entry due to EO 5327 and PLO 4522 since the pre-withdrawal mining claim cited in the original notice was declared abandoned and void in 2001). The Vernal Field Office will continue to monitor the project area for stability and vegetative cover biannually and will notify the operator of record if any remedial actions are necessary. The notice case will be closed upon a finding the reclamation is to the satisfaction of the Vernal Field Office. The Field Office still must issue a "notice expired" decision for notice UTU66370 in accordance with IM UT 2003-47.

	signature	print name/title	date
Inspector		Peter Sokolosky/Geologist	<u>May 7 2003</u>
Management acknowledgement		Howard Cleavinger/AFMMR	<u>05/08/2003</u>

Attachment: Digital images

Distribution: original to surface management case file UTU66354  
Copy - UDOGM (formerly part of exploration permit E/047/001)



Attachment to report of April 24, 2003 inspection of project area UTU66370 – three digital images



(above) view to northeast along access road that has been reshaped and seeded (opposite direction of image 7 in the 9/02 inspection); there had been [ATV] vehicular travel along this former access. Sprouts of grass are emerging.



(above) view to southwest of access road that has been reshaped, seeded and has vegetation emerging (compare with image 1 of the 9/02 inspection). An ATV had traveled along the path of this former access.



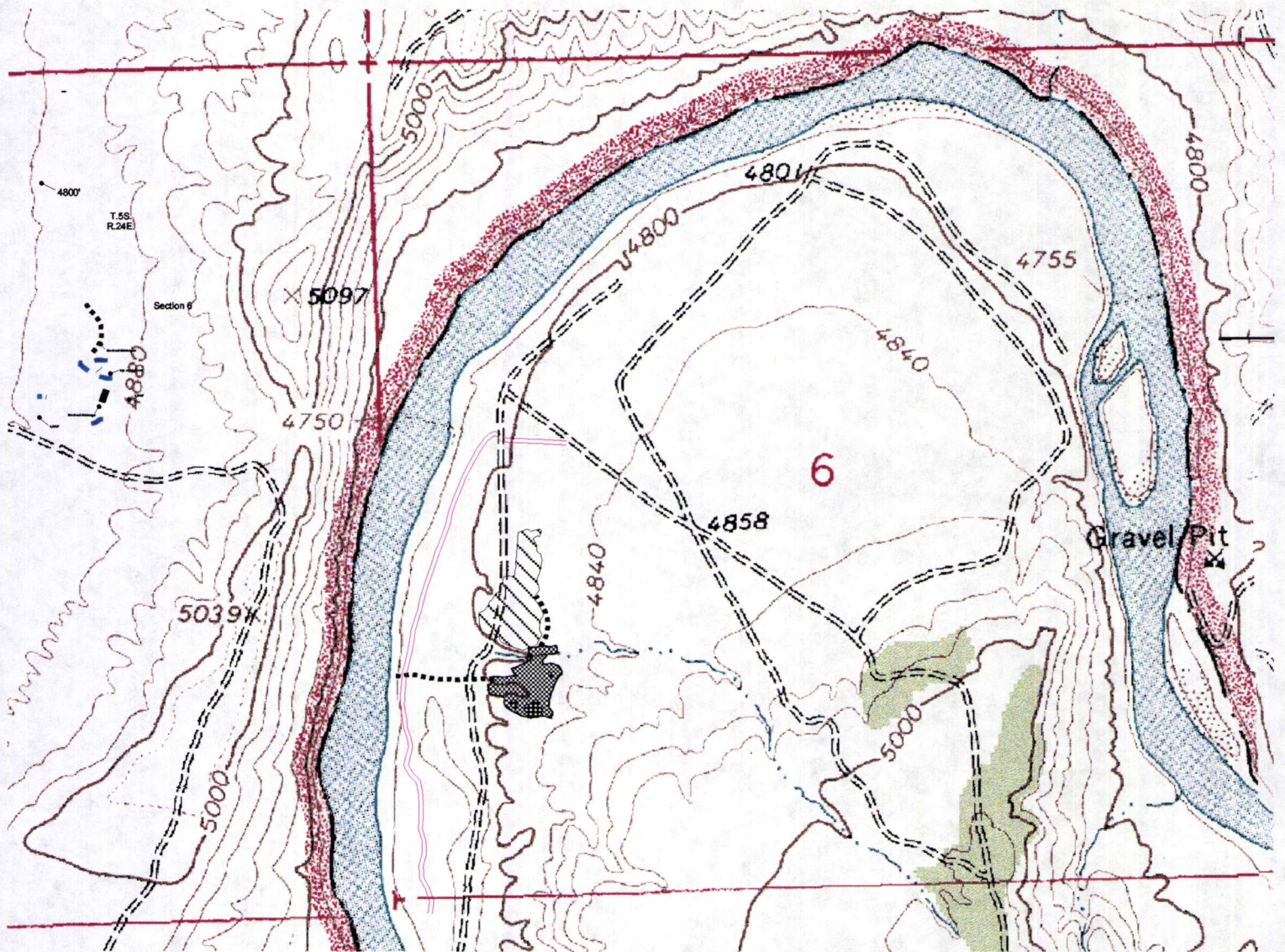
continuation (2 of 2) attachment [digitals] to April 24, 2003 inspection of UTU66370



view to east – reshaped/seeded access road (upper center; ATV had traveled along its length) ends at reshaped/seeded drill pad (left-center); emergence of vegetation is notable (compare with image 2 from the 9/02 inspection)



Expired notice UTU66356 project area (stippled area and associated access roads).  
The Haslem (UTU66354) reshaped/seeded area is shown as cross-hatched.



1000 0 1000 2000 3000 Feet

Enlargement of T.5S., R.24E. Sec. 6, NESW. Background topography from the Dinosaur Quarry, Utah 7.5" quadrangle, contour interval 40 feet; plot scale 1:12,000.

existing two track, unmapped two tracks to be reclaimed  
UTU66358 area of past placer mining

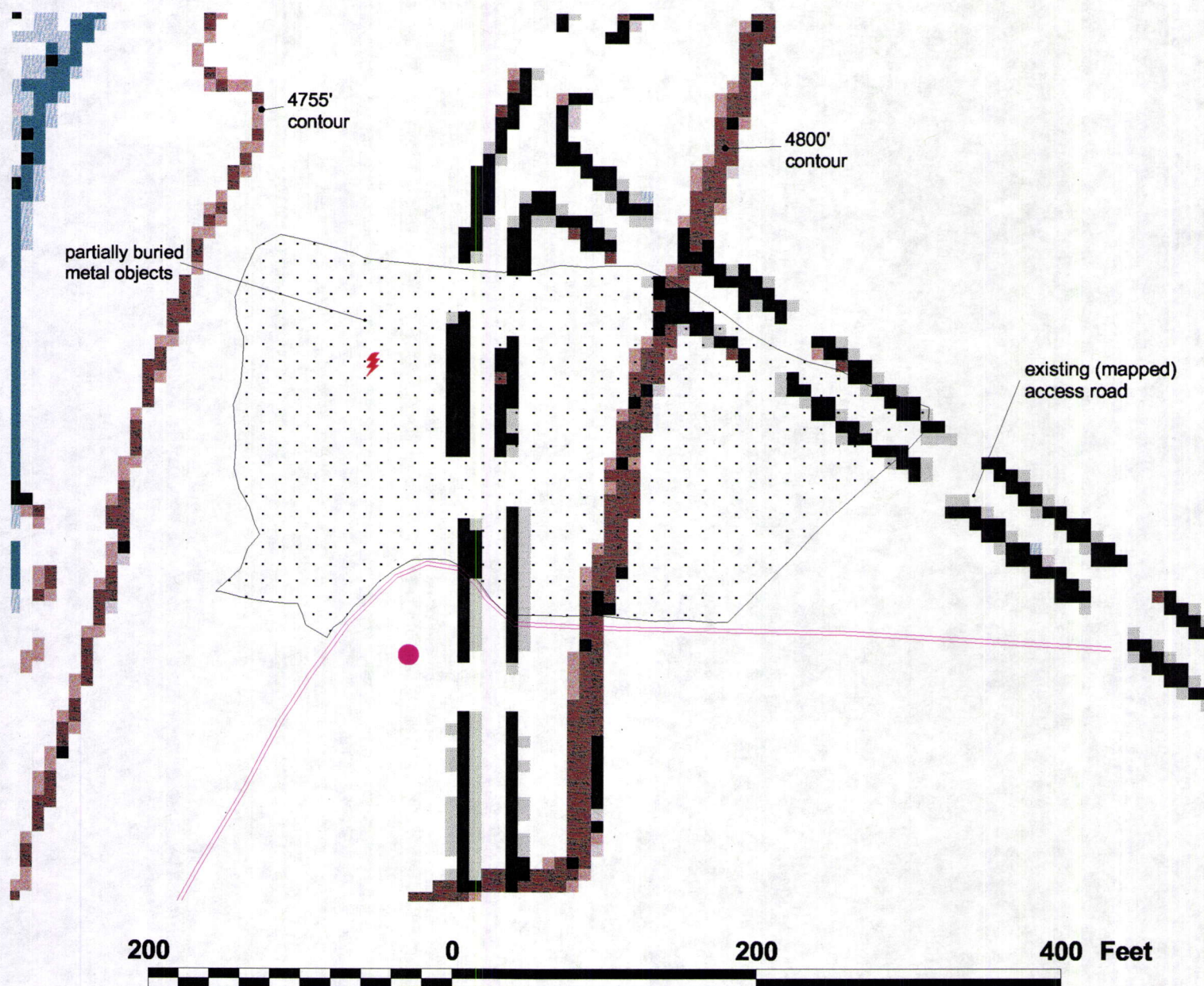
- reshaped area  
- topsoil-pit run to be applied to reshaped areas



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of any of the data for purposes not intended by the Bureau of Land Management.




# Expired notice UTU66357 project area (unreclaimed)



Enlargement of T.5S., R.24E., Sec. 6 SW NW; background topography from Dinosaur Quarry, Utah 7.5" quadrangle, scale of plot - 1:1,200; contour elevations shown

**unmapped existing**

 **road**



**wires exposed here**



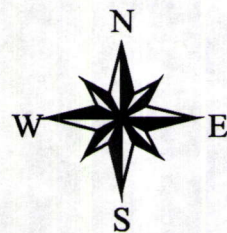
**power pole**

**UTU66357 project**



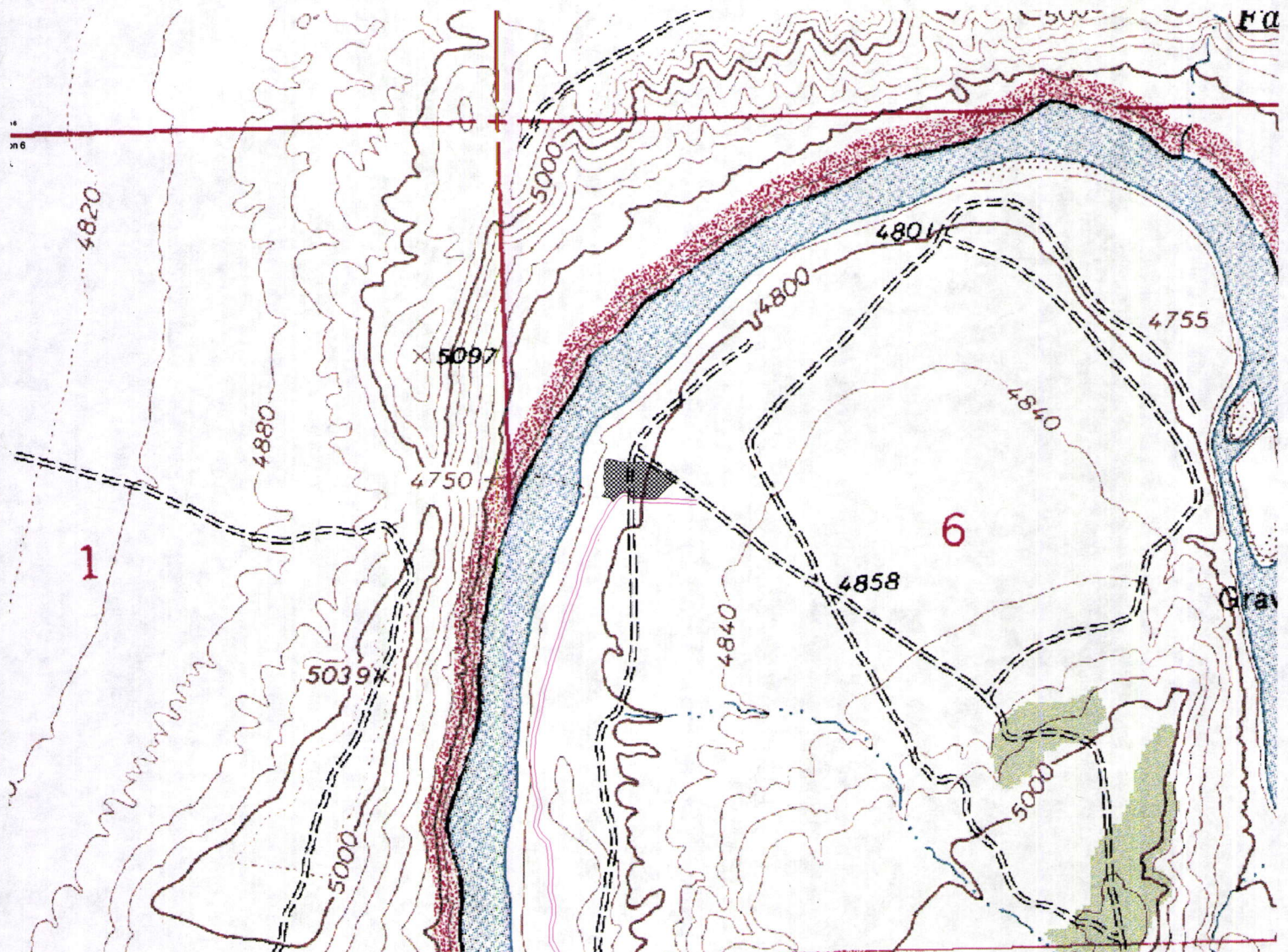
**area**

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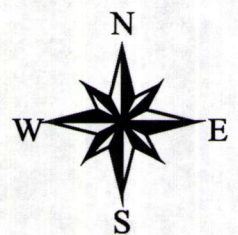
# Expired notice UTU66357 project area (L...reclaimed)



2000 0 2000 4000 Feet

Enlargement of T.5S., R.24E., Sec. 6 SW NW; background topography from Dinosaur Quarry, Utah 7.5" quadrangle, scale of plot - 1:12,000; contour interval 40'

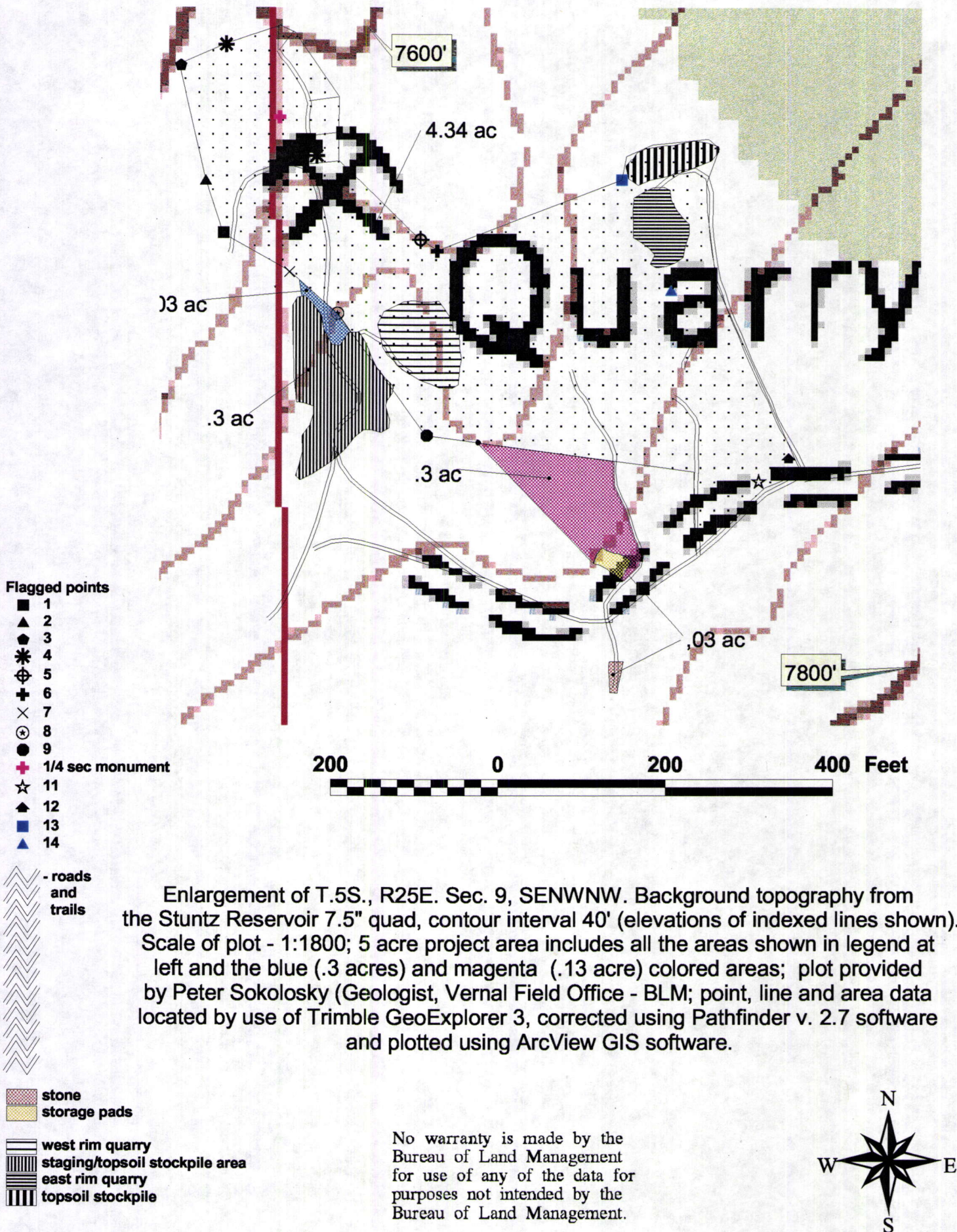
unmapped existing  
road  
UTU66357 project  
area



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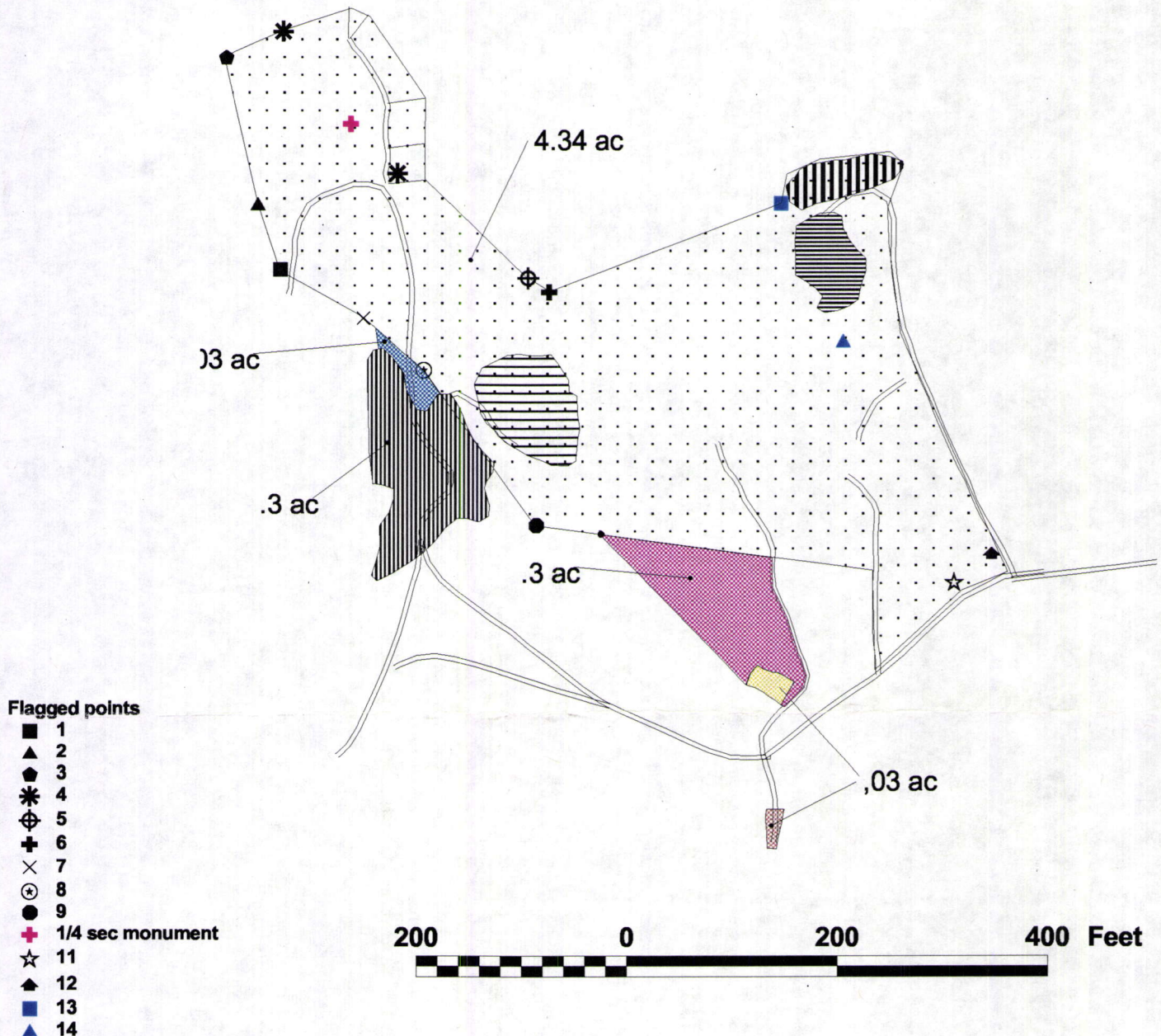


5 acre project area under notice JTU66378 (plot provided with notice extension letter).





5 acre project area under notice TU66378 (plot provided with notice extension letter).



#### Flagged points

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 1/4 sec monument
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14

roads and trails

stone storage pads

west rim quarry  
staging/topsoil stockpile area  
east rim quarry  
topsoil stockpile

#### Enlargement of T.5S., R25E. Sec. 9, SENWNW

Scale of plot - 1:1800; 5 acre project area includes all the areas shown in legend at left and the blue (.3 acres) and magenta (.13 acre) colored areas; plot provided by Peter Sokolosky (Geologist, Vernal Field Office - BLM; point, line and area data located by use of Trimble GeoExplorer 3, corrected using Pathfinder v. 2.7 software and plotted using ArcView GIS software.

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